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Smart's Murderers Likely *Union Leader, April 2, 1991* To Become Prey in Prison

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CONCORD — The three teenage boys facing long prison terms in the Gregory Smart murder won't be working the chain gangs of Alcatraz-Sing Sing movies, but mental torment and physical danger won't make their stay easy.

In a system that divides into prey and predators, they are likely to be considered prey because of their age, their institutional inexperience and their cooperation with police.

"It's going to be a horrible thing for them," said one former inmate, despite vast improvements in the New Hampshire State Prison since the 1970s when the Die Hard Motorcycle Club controlled the cellblock. Sexual and other physical abuse, and general harassment are real threats, he said.

Bill Flynn, 17, the trigger man; Patrick Randall, 18; and Vance Lattime, 18, all of Sea-

brook, pleaded guilty to lesser charges in exchange for their testimony against Pamela Smart.

Her trial was televised throughout the state and lured media from across the country to hear testimony of her steamy affair with Flynn and the boys' graphic descriptions of the killing.

After almost two weeks of testimony, Smart, 23, a media administrator in the boys' high school district, was convicted March 22 of plotting the murder of her husband with the boys, and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

The boys await sentencing, but Flynn agreed to a term of 28 years to life, and Randall and Lattime accepted prosecution recommendations of 18 years to life.

They won't be easily accepted by other inmates because they "sold themselves to the government," said former inmate Bob

Houman, 34, who entered the prison as an inmate hero in 1975 after shooting a policeman and then being shot by a policeman.

"They didn't know what they were walking into," Houman said of the youngsters. "They were just trying to save their hides.

"No one in the prison is going to trust them because of their testimony," he said. "If they have good guards who care, they'll have a better chance," but he pointed out that 18 to 28 years is a long time to keep a close watch on someone.

Houman believes the best thing corrections officials could do for the youngsters would be to "send them 1,000 miles in another direction" to another prison, and supply them with false reasons for their imprisonment.

Flynn, Randall and Lattime will be placed — not necessarily together — with people of similar makeup, not necessarily age.